

THE WHITE HOUSE

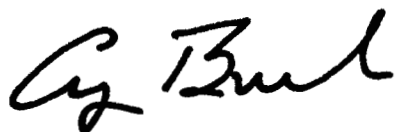
WASHINGTON

February 19, 1992

I am delighted to send greetings to all those who are gathered in our Nation's Capital as the members of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases honor Mrs. Albert Lasker and Dr. Michael E. DeBakey with their 1992 Maxwell Finland Award. Congratulations to your honorees on this well-deserved tribute.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mrs. Lasker and Dr. DeBakey -- two leaders whose contributions to biomedical research have helped to improve the health of millions of people around the world. Working individually through their respective fields and together through the Albert Lasker Medical Research Awards program, your honorees have helped to foster the innovation and excellence that, in turn, have led to lifesaving advances in medical science. Today, as we fight new foes such as HIV/AIDS and work to quell the re-emergence of age-old afflictions such as tuberculosis, we are reminded of the importance of your honorees' achievements -- for it is only through research that we develop better means of disease prevention and treatment. I gladly join with you in saluting Mrs. Lasker and Dr. DeBakey, and on behalf of all Americans, I thank each of you for demonstrating what can be accomplished by those who are committed to improving the lives of their fellowman.

Barbara joins me in sending best wishes for an enjoyable celebration and for every success in the future. God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a stylized "Bush".